



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 554-2700

Fresno
1130 O. Street, Rm 3654
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 498-7272

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2006

Contact: David Gappa, 559-497-4020

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**VISALIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIVING IMAGES DEPICTING
THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN VIA THE INTERNET**

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL PATRICK BRAZIL, 51, of Visalia, California, pleaded guilty before the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii to one count of receiving images of the sexual exploitation of children.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by the Tulare Police Department and the Fresno office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, BRAZIL admitted in a plea agreement that between September 22, 2005, and October 20, 2005, he received between 300 and 600 images depicting the sexual exploitation of minors. He specifically admitted using a computer and the internet to obtain the images from various web sites, that many of the images were of prepubescent children, and that they depicted sadistic or masochistic conduct or other images of violence. BRAZIL agreed to: accept a sentence of 87 months in federal prison, attend the federal sex offender treatment program in Butner, North Carolina, and serve a term of supervised release for 132 months (11 years) upon his release from custody.

BRAZIL has been detained in federal custody since his arrest on February 16, 2006, as both a flight risk and as a danger to the community. Sentencing is scheduled for October 2, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a possible lifetime term of supervised release.

###